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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, D.C. 20515
Telephone: 202-225-3951

February 17, 1983

Honorable Charles A. Bowsher
 Comptroller General
 General Accounting Office
 441 G Street, Northwest
 Washington, D. C. 20548

Dear Mr. Bowsher:

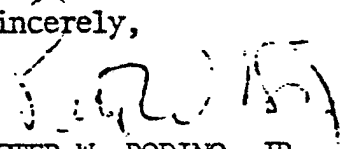
At my request, the General Accounting Office is presently investigating whether Executive Branch agencies actively helped suspected Nazi war criminals enter the United States in violation of our immigration laws and protected them once they were admitted. This inquiry is a follow-up on a report prepared by GAO in 1978, also at the request of the House Committee on the Judiciary, the conclusions of which were called into question when it was learned that potentially critical information was withheld from Congress and GAO investigators.

Recent news accounts about the return of Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie to France have again raised the specter of possible links between United States intelligence agencies and Nazi war criminals. Among the allegations are that American agents protected Barbie from French officials, assisted his escape to South America and paid him for information on other Nazis and for other "intelligence."

Because the allegations about Barbie are obviously related to your present investigation, and could shed some light on the relationship between the intelligence community and suspected war criminals living in the United States, I ask that you direct your staff to include a review of this matter in the report GAO is already preparing for the Committee.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


 PETER W. RODINO, JR.,
 Chairman

PWR:jss